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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COGNITIVE RESTRUCTURING.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a  
2   disproportionately high rate of arrest and incarceration amongst  
3   young men and women of native Hawaiian ancestry. It is  
4   estimated that over two thousand persons of native Hawaiian  
5   ancestry are incarcerated and that seventy per cent of those  
6   persons are between the ages of twenty and forty.

7           The legislature also finds that a promising approach to  
8   reducing recidivism and helping inmates make the successful  
9   transition from prison to the community is through establishing  
10   cognitive restructuring and transition programs at correctional  
11   facilities. Those reintegration programs involve the self-  
12   examination of an inmate's belief system, criminal addictive  
13   cycle, attitude, and thinking patterns, and they also develop a  
14   relapse prevention plan for future situations. Essentially, the  
15   program assists offenders with restructuring their thought  
16   processes and teaches them cognitive skills that help with basic  
17   decision-making and problem-solving. The goal of cognitive  
18   restructuring is to guide offenders to consciously examine their



1 decision-making processes through developing self control, thus  
2 making them responsible for, and in charge of, their actions no  
3 matter how stressful the situation. When combined with  
4 strategies that help native Hawaiian inmates get back in touch  
5 with the values of their culture; cognitive rehabilitation can  
6 help break the vicious cycle of crime and punishment as  
7 knowledge of native Hawaiian traditions and cultural values have  
8 helped many cope with social challenges.

9       The purpose of this Act is to extend the ability of  
10 department of public safety to expend existing monies and also  
11 to provide additional funding to establish pilot reintegration  
12 programs within correctional facilities located in the county of  
13 Hawaii. The reintegration programs will analyze cognitive  
14 behavioral theories with native Hawaiian holistic interventions  
15 to address domestic violence, addictions, self mastery through  
16 identity, and community connections for successful transitions  
17 back into the community.

18       SECTION 2. Act 3, First Special Session Laws of Hawaii  
19 2007, is amended by amending section 20 to read as follows:

20       "SECTION 20. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$33,000 or so much  
22 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year [~~2007-2008~~] 2008-



1 2009 for a cognitive restructuring pilot program to be  
2 established in the county of Hawaii at Kulani correctional  
3 facility, Hawaii community correctional center, and Hale Nani  
4 reintegration center.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
6 public safety for the purposes of this part."

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much  
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to  
10 establish cognitive restructuring programs that use native  
11 Hawaiian holistic methods in the county of Hawaii at the Kulani  
12 correctional facility, Hawaii community correctional center, and  
13 Hale Nani reintegration center.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
15 public safety for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008;  
19 provided that section 2 shall take effect on June 29, 2008.



**Report Title:**

Corrections; Rehabilitation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the department of public safety to provide a pilot reintegration programs in the county of Hawaii that combine cognitive behavioral theories with native Hawaiian holistic interventions that address domestic violence, addictions, self mastery through identity, and community connections for successful transitions back into the community.  
(SD1)

